

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : James Crawford                      Art Unit : 2141  
Serial No. : 09/597,784                      Examiner : Kristie D Shingles  
Filed : June 19, 2000                      Conf. No. : 4992  
Title : DIRECT FILE TRANSFER BETWEEN SUBSCRIBERS OF A  
COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM

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OK to Enter  
-HDS 9/13/06

REPLY TO ACTION OF JUNE 26, 2006

Claims 1-40 and 45-78 are pending, with claims 1, 14, 29-31, 36, and 45 being independent.

Claims 1-40 and 45-78 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Donovan (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0193722) in view of van Hoff (U.S. Patent No. 5,761,421) and Miyake (U.S. Patent No. 6,678,341).

Independent claims 1, 29 and 31 each recite, among other features, "establishing an instant messaging communications session with the second client to enable instant messaging communications to be exchanged between the first client and the second client over a first communications channel, the first communications channel passing through the communications system host" (emphasis added), "after establishing the instant messaging communications session, sending, through the communications system host, a request to the second client to establish a direct connection to the second client" (emphasis added), and "if a user of the second client accepts the request, establishing, in the instant messaging communications session, a second communications channel between the first client and the second client to enable files to be directly transferred between the first client and the second client, wherein the second communications channel consists of a direct connection to the second client that bypasses the communications system host" (emphasis added). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 29 and 31, and their dependent claims, because neither Donovan, van Hoff, Miyake any proper combination of the three describes or suggests establishing an instant messaging communications session to enable instant messaging communications to be exchanged between a first and a second client system over a first communications channel that passes through a communications system host and, after the instant messaging communications session has been established, sending a request to a second client